

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0742

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, BQG, GW
SUBJECT: REPORT OF RIGHT RADICAL INTENTION TO FREE HESS BY FORCE

1. A DEUTSCHE PRESS AGENTUR (DPA) STORY IN THE MARCH 26
TAGESSPIEGEL CONCERNING RIGHT RADICAL ACTIONS TO OBTAIN
ARMS FROM MILITARY DEPOTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
CITED "RELIABLE SOURCES" TO THE EFFECT THAT ONE DESIRED
FUTURE ACTION IS THE FREEING OF RUDOLF HESS FROM SPANDAU
PRISON. WE BELIEVE THE HIGH ODDS AGAINST A SUCCESSFUL
CLANDESTINE OR DIRECT ARMED PENETRATION OF THE PRISON FOR
THIS PURPOSE SERVE AS A STRONG DETERRENT. THE COMMANDER
OF THE BERLIN BRIGADE HAS TAKEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW
ALLIED SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRECAUTIONS, WHICH
APPEAR TO BE SATISFACTORY. THE US TOOK GUARD
RESPONSIBILITY INSIDE THE PRISON ON APRIL 1 FROM THE
SOVIETS. THE BRITISH HAVE CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SECURITY OUTSIDE IN THEIR SECTOR AND HAVE ORDERED IN-
CREASED POLICE VIGILANCE.

2. WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A DIRECT ATTACK OR OTHER
VIOLENT ACTION TO FREE HESS. ONE CANNOT ENTIRELY EXCLUDE
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THE POSSIBILITY OF A KIDNAPPING OR HOSTAGE GAMBIT. THE
SMALL GROUP OF BERLIN-BASED RIGHT RADICALS APPEAR ILL-
EQUIPPED AND, SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, NOT INCLINED
TO CARRY THROUGH WITH SUCH AN UNDERTAKING ON THEIR OWN.
THE BERLIN LFV HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT RIGHT RADICALS ARE
PLANNING AN ATTACK, ALTHOUGH DEMONSTRATIVE, PROPAGANDISTIC
ACTIONS ARE POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE RIGHT RADICAL

HAS INDICATED HE WILL BURN HIMSELF ON HESS' BIRTHDAY (APRIL 26) IN FRONT OF SPANDAU PRISON. WE GATHER FROM THE POLICE HERE THAT PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING MEASURES BY THE AUTHORITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE-PRONE RIGHT RADICAL ACTIVISTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ARE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE DPA ARTICLE, DATED LUENEBURG.

3. BEGIN TEXT. WHEN SEARCHING FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHO IN FEBRUARY ATTACKED A BIVOUAC OF DUTCH SOLDIERS AT THE BERGEN NATO TRAINING AREA IN LOWER SAXONY AND CARRIED OFF FOUR SUB-MACHINE GUNS, THE POLICE CAME ACROSS AN ASSOCIATION OF RADICAL RIGHTISTS WHICH, AFTER COMMITTING OFFENSES TO OBTAIN WEAPONS AND MONEY, WAS PLANNING SPECTACULAR LARGE-SCALE ACTIONS. THIS WAS LEARNED FROM THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN LUENEBURG. FIVE SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THAT GROUP HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR, AND THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE EXPECTS ANOTHER 15-20 ARRESTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE ORGANIZATION WAS REPORTEDLY OPERATING IN HAMBURG, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, AND IN THE AREAS OF KOELN AND NUERNBERG. THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE CHARGES SOME OF ITS MEMBERS WITH A BANK ROBBERY IN HAMBURG, A HOLDUP OF A WEALTHY MAN IN KOELN, AND THE WEAPONS ROBBERY AT THE NATO TRAINING AREA IN FEBRUARY. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE GROUP, CALLING ITSELF 'WEHRSPORT-VEREINIGUNG' (MILITARY SPORTS ASSOCIATION) AND CATEGORIZED BY THE POLICE LAST FALL AS A CRIMINAL ASSOCIATION, COMMITTED
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SEVERAL ATTACKS ALSO ON MEMBERS OF THE WEST GERMAN ARMED FORCES TO GET HOLD OF WEAPONS. THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DOES NOT YET KNOW WHAT ACTIONS THE GROUP WAS PLANNING. BUT FROM ANOTHER RELIABLE SOURCE IT WAS LEARNED THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WERE PLANNING TO FREE RUDOLF HESS, WHO IS UNDER ARREST IN BERLIN-SPANDAU. END TEXT.
GEORGE

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